

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20 in the following manner:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates, in a block diagram format, example tasks and a cleanup subroutine used in the description of the latch mechanism of the preferred embodiment.

Figure 2 illustrates, in a block diagram format, a latch with flags marked stealable, unstealable, and stolen.

Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph ending on page 10, line 1:

Figure 2 illustrates, in a block diagram format, a latch 20 with associated flags 30 marked stealable 40, unstealable 50 and stolen 60.